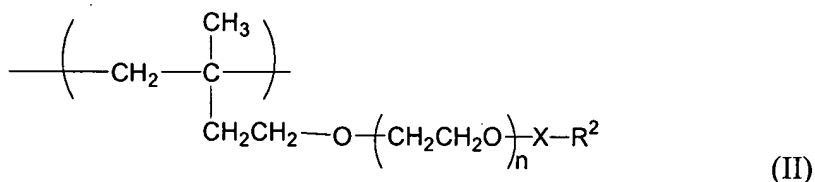


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred specific mode of the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II),



The monomer unit represented by the formula (II) possesses in a side chain a functional group of the formula (I) in which R<sup>1</sup> denotes ~~a methylene~~ an ethylene group. In the formula (II), the symbols n, X, and R<sup>2</sup> have the same definitions as mentioned above and, therefore, require no explanation.